



Introductory Workshop Manual

IOWATER

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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IOWATER Introductory Workshop
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
Volunteer Evaluation Form

1. Overall, how would you rate your workshop experience? (1=Poor, 10=Excellent)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. How did you hear about IOWATER?

☐ Conference/Event – _____
☐ Internet/Web – _____
☐ Friend – _____
☐ Newsletter – _____

☐ E-mail list – _____
☐ Newspaper/TV/Radio – _____
☐ At work – _____
☐ Other (list) – _____

3. How could the workshop be improved?

4. Would you tell a friend about your experience with IOWATER?

☐ Yes – would you encourage them to attend a workshop? ☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No – why not? _____

5. In your opinion, how important is water quality? (1=Not Important, 10=Crucial)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. What are the biggest water quality problems Iowa faces today?

(Rank from 1-5, with 1 being a serious problem and 5 being a problem of little concern)

____ Trash	____ Nutrients	____ Lack of fish diversity
____ Sediment	____ No public access	____ Temperature change
____ Bacteria	____ Habitat loss	____ Not sure
____ Other: _____		

7. How do you plan to use the knowledge and skills you received at this workshop?

☐ I don't plan to register or monitor a site – I just wanted to know what IOWATER is about.
☐ I don't plan to register or monitor a site, but I do intend to use the equipment and information for community education. If so, who will be your target audience? *(check all that apply)*
☐ School children (K-12) ☐ College students ☐ Community Groups ☐ Family/Friends
☐ Other – _____
☐ I have a site location in mind and plan to register it, monitor it, and submit data for it.
☐ I plan to volunteer with a watershed group in my area. Which one? _____
☐ I plan to develop a watershed group in my area.
☐ Other – _____

8. What was the best part about this workshop?

9. What was the worst part about this workshop?

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- Mark an “X” at the spot that describes ideas/feelings **BEFORE** the workshop
- Mark an “O” at the spot that describes your ideas/feelings **RIGHT NOW**.

10. Understanding of Water Quality

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
What is water quality?					I understand water quality and why it’s important.				

11. Watersheds

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
What’s a watershed?					I know my watershed address and understand how my actions impact my watershed.				

12. Confidence in habitat monitoring

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I don’t know how to assess the stream habitat					I am comfortable completing the Habitat Assessment form using IOWATER monitoring techniques.				

13. Confidence in physical monitoring

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I don’t know how to assess the physical properties of streams.					I am comfortable completing the Physical Assessment form using IOWATER monitoring techniques.				

14. Confidence in chemical monitoring

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I don’t know how to assess the chemical properties of streams.					I am comfortable completing the Chemical Assessment form using IOWATER monitoring techniques.				

15. Confidence in lake monitoring

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I have don’t know how to monitor lakes.					I am comfortable completing the Standing Waters Assessment form using IOWATER monitoring techniques				

16. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you may have:

Thanks for volunteering to help protect and improve Iowa’s water quality!



Safety Information, Release & Waiver Of Liability

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources intends that citizen monitors participating in the IOWATER program are not acting on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in any official capacity. As such, it is the Department's intent that citizen monitors are not authorized to be considered agents, employees, or authorized representatives of the Department for any purpose, and that citizen monitors are not entitled to the same benefits enjoyed by the Department employees.

Citizen monitors must recognize the potential for injury to themselves and their real and personal property, and to other persons and their real and personal property, which may result from citizen volunteer activities conducted under the IOWATER Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. The Department intends that citizen monitors expressly assume all risks and liability for any injuries to, or caused by citizen monitors under the IOWATER program.

Citizen monitors will be instructed in proper sampling techniques and handling of all equipment offered through the IOWATER program. They also will be cautioned that if there is ever any doubt, they should give safety priority over sampling. Every participant also will receive a copy of the IOWATER manual and the stream assessment procedures.

This affects any rights you may have if you are injured or otherwise suffer damages while participating in any activity in conjunction with activities sponsored by IOWATER.

Are you 18 years old or over? ☐ Yes ☐ No – *a legal parent/guardian must also sign this form*

The volunteer and parent/legal guardian(s), by signing below, recognize that the IOWATER program involves some risk and that she/he takes responsibility for all action or injury that may result in participating in water monitoring activities. **All children under 18 must have a parent/legal guardian signature(s) below.**

I, _____ (volunteer name) and _____ (parent/legal guardian name), hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the State of Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, county or other agencies, partners, cooperating landowners, event volunteers and coordinators, sponsors, and any of the offices, servants, agents and employees of the above-mentioned entities (hereinafter referred to as "RELEASEES") for any liability, claim and/or cause of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that occurs as a result of _____'s (volunteer name) participation in IOWATER monitoring activities.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the RELEASEES whether injury is caused by _____'s (volunteer name) negligence, the negligence of the RELEASEES or the negligence of any third party. I further agree that this Release and Waiver of Liability shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representatives, if I am deceased, and shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above-named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Release and Waiver of Liability shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa.

I understand that photographs may be taken during IOWATER activities may be used in the future to chronicle and publicize the program.

**By signing this Release and Waiver of Liability,
I state that I have read and understood the conditions set forth in this Release
and that I agree to all conditions set forth herein, and that I sign this voluntarily.**

Signature of Volunteer

Printed Name of Volunteer

Date

**Signature(s) of
Parent/Legal Guardian**

**Printed Name(s) of
Parent/Legal Guardian**

Date

Preface

Volunteers have been monitoring water quality in Iowa for many years. With IOWATER, these efforts can become unified as a coordinated, statewide approach. Since the program started in May of 1998, IOWATER citizen monitors have helped contribute valuable data and reinforce the concept of public ownership of our environment. IOWATER supports this network of volunteers with on-site training workshops, standardized levels of testing, an online database to warehouse collected data, testing equipment, and tools for local advocacy on local water quality issues. Each group has the flexibility to design its own program within the group's selected watershed.

Water quality is one of our state's top environmental concerns. In today's era of smaller, friendlier, and more efficient government programs, the role of volunteer citizen monitoring continues to evolve out of increased ability, respect, and need. Assisting those who are concerned about their natural resources will enable them to become involved in the protection and improvement of our environment.

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Equal Opportunity

Federal Regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger size version is available by calling the DNR at (515) 725-3434, or writing to:

IOWATER
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

IOWATER Program Advisory Committee

Diversity is our strength! IOWATER is an expanding statewide partnership effort of:

- ★ Area Education Agencies
- ★ Conservation Districts of Iowa
- ★ Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
- ★ Iowa Association of Naturalists
- ★ Iowa Association of Resource Conservation & Development Areas
- ★ Iowa Community Colleges
- ★ Iowa Conservation Education Council
- ★ Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
- ★ Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- ★ Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
- ★ Iowa Drainage District Association
- ★ Iowa Environmental Council
- ★ Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
- ★ Iowa Pork Producers
- ★ Iowa Poultry Association
- ★ Iowa Student Environmental Coalition
- ★ Iowa State University Extension
- ★ Iowa Water Pollution Control Association
- ★ Iowa Watersheds
- ★ Trees Forever
- ★ United States Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ★ University Hygienic Laboratory (University of Iowa)
- ★ Volunteer monitoring groups across Iowa

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